

AGENDA
Tuesday, April 20, 2010
Capitol Extension, E1.028
9:00 a.m.

I. Call to Order

II. Committee Business

III. Opening Remarks

IV. Interim Charge 2: Review the state's education policy and initiatives regarding middle grades. Make recommendations to ensure a comprehensive state strategy for preparing students at the middle grades for high school retention and success. This review should include an examination of school-based strategies and best practices that encourage at-risk youth to finish school and that deter delinquency, drug abuse and violence.

○ **Panel 1: The Importance of Middle Grades**

- Ed Fuller, Ph.D., Education Consultant
- Paul Garro, M.Ed, Executive Director, City Year San Antonio
- Karen L. Pennell, Assistant Vice President and Regional Manager ACT, Inc. Southwest Region, Austin, Texas
- Pamela L. Nelson, VP, General Manager, SpringBoard, The College Board

○ **Panel 2: Academic Quality**

- Steve Graham, Professor of Education, Vanderbilt University
- David J. Chard, Ph.D., Leon Simmons Endowed Dean, Annette Caldwell Simmons School of Education and Human Development, Southern Methodist University
- Jade Wexler, Ph.D., Senior Research Associate, The Meadows Center for Preventing Educational Risk, The University of Texas at Austin
- Gloria Zyskowski, Ph.D., Deputy Associate Commissioner for Student Assessment, Texas Education Agency
- Kerry Ballast, Director of Special Projects - Department of Standards and Programs, Texas Education Agency

- **Panel 3: Practitioners Panel #1**
 - Henry Booth, Principal, Natalia Junior High School, Natalia ISD
 - Lesli Guajardo, Principal, Hurst Junior High School, Hurst Euleless Bedford ISD
 - Kathleen Gilbert, Teacher, Hurst Junior High School, Hurst Euleless Bedford ISD
 - Jim Nelson, Executive Director, AVID Center

- **Panel 4: Practitioners Panel #2**
 - Marlon Brooks, Principal, Ernest Bernard Comstock Middle School, Dallas ISD
 - Mr. Jamie Scott, M.Ed, Teacher and Community Service Project Coordinator, Pin Oak Middle School, Houston ISD
 - Todd C. Litton, Executive Director-Texas, Citizen Schools
 - Sandra G. Chavarria, President and CEO, Communities In Schools (CIS) Dallas Region

- **Panel 5: Academic Enrichment Opportunities**
 - Robert Floyd, Executive Director, Texas Music Educators Association and Chair, Texas Coalition for Quality Arts Education
 - Marty Thompson, CTE Director and Dean of the Advanced Technology Complex, Denton ISD
 - Michelle Swain, Director, Gifted and Advanced Academic Services, Round Rock ISD and President-Elect, Texas Association for the Gifted and Talented

V. Public Testimony

VI. Recess